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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/079,844	02/22/2002	Norio Tanaka	122.1492	7542
21171	7590	06/21/2005	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			THAI, CANG G	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3629	

DATE MAILED: 06/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/079,844

Applicant(s)

TANAKA, NORIO

Examiner

Cang G. Thai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/22/2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/26/2002.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Applicant is reminded that in order for a patent issuing on the instant application to obtain the benefit of priority based on priority papers filed in parent Application No. JAPAN 2001-053181 (02/27/2001) under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), a claim for such foreign priority must be timely made in this application. To satisfy the requirement of 37 CFR 1.55(a)(2) for a certified copy of the foreign application, applicant may simply identify the application containing the certified copy.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 02/22/2002 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner is considering the information disclosure statement.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, it is not clear what is the scope of the claimed invention and how the steps are implemented to achieve the scope of the claimed invention? Is it enhancing business development approach or maximizing the company market evaluation or launching a business. Applicant is recommended to insert an objective of the claimed

invention in the preamble to improve clarity. Service management is not a proper scope of the claimed invention. It is not clear on the service management in the body of the claim and how it is related to the service management as mentioned in the preamble.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,832,452 (SCHNEIDER ET AL.).

As for claim 1, SCHNEIDER discloses a service management program for hotel facilities, which operates in conjunction with a lodging management system for the management of information about the guests of the hotel from the registration at the check-in to the account at the check-out, the program executing:

a room number input step of obtaining and inputting the room number of a guest when the guest visits the hotel facility {See Fig. 2, Element 23};

a lodging management system conjunction step of transmitting the room number of the guest to a lodging management system to obtain the information about the guest concerned {See Fig. 2, Element 24}; and

a service indication step of comparing a service management table for the management of the attributes of the services of the hotel facilities and for the management of the availabilities of the hotel facilities, with the guest's own attributes in the information about the guest which has been obtained from the lodging management system, and of indicating a service suitable for the guest's attributes {See Fig. 2, Element 25}.

As for claim 2, SCHNEIDER discloses the service management program for hotel facilities as set forth in claim 1 further executing an account-with-hotel-charge step of transmitting the room number of the guest obtained when the guest visits the hotel facility, in the case in which the facility charge is paid with the hotel charge at the check-out, to the lodging management system with the data of the facility charge to be paid with the hotel charge {See Fig. 2, Element 28}.

As for claim 3, SCHNEIDER discloses the service management program for hotel facilities as set forth in claim 1 further executing a facility information transmission step of transmitting the service availability information about the hotel facility to the indicating devices in the guest rooms and the lobby, and to the home page of the hotel, from the service management table of the hotel facility {See Fig. 6, Element 53}.

As for claim 4, SCHNEIDER discloses the a service management method, for hotel facilities, which operates in conjunction with a lodging management system for the management of information about the guests of the hotel from the registration at the check-in to the account at the check-out, the method comprising:

a room-number-input step of obtaining and inputting the room number of a guest when the guest visits the hotel facility {See Column 1, Lines 40-41, wherein this reads over "the computer receives input from a user of search criteria in one or more of these categories"};

a lodging management system conjunction step of transmitting the room number of the guest to a lodging management system to obtain the information about the guest concerned {See Column 1, Lines 41-44, wherein this reads over "the computer then

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searches the database for hotels whose data matches the criteria, and displays a list of these hotels”}; and

a service indication step of comparing a service management table for the management of the attributes of the services of the hotel facilities and for the management of the availabilities of the hotel facilities, with the guest's own attributes in the information about the guest which has been obtained from the lodging management system, and of indicating a service suitable for the guest's attributes {See Column 1, Lines 44-45, wherein this reads over “the user may then select one or more of the hotels on the list”}.

As for claim 5, SCHNEIDER discloses the service management method for hotel facilities as set forth in claim 4 further comprising an account-with-hotel-charge step of transmitting the room number of the guest obtained when the guest visits the hotel facility, in the case in which the facility charge is paid with the hotel charge at the check-out, to the lodging management system with the data of the facility charge to be paid with the hotel charge {See Column 5, Lines 31-33, wherein this reads over “the features file displays information such as room type, blackout dates, guarantee and cancel policy, and accessibility to the disabled”}.

As for claim 6, SCHNEIDER discloses the service management method for hotel facilities as set forth in claim 4 further comprising a facility information transmission step of transmitting the service availability information about the hotel facility to the indicating devices in the guest rooms and the lobby, and to the home page of the hotel, from the service management table of the hotel facility {See Column 5, Lines 33-35, wherein this

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reads over "the amenities file displays information such as complementary breakfast, free local calls, health club, fax in room, and coffee room"}.

As for claim 7, SCHNEIDER discloses a service management apparatus for hotel facilities, which operates in conjunction with a lodging management system for the management of information about the guests of the hotel from the registration at the check-in to the account at the check-out, the apparatus comprising:

a room-number-input means for obtaining and inputting the room number of a guest when the guest visits the hotel facility {See Fig. 1, Element 15};

a lodging management system conjunction means for transmitting the room number of the guest to a lodging management system to obtain the information about the guest concerned {See Fig. 1, Element 13}; and

a service indication means for comparing a service management table for the management of the attributes of the services of the hotel facilities and for the management of the availabilities of the hotel facilities, with the guest's own attributes in the information about the guest which has been obtained from the lodging management system, and for indicating a service suitable for the guest's attributes {See Fig. 1, Element 16}.

As for claim 8, SCHNEIDER discloses a computer readable recording medium for recording a service management program for hotel facilities, which operates in conjunction with a lodging management system for the management of information about the guests of the hotel from the registration at the check-in to the account at the check-out, the program executing {See Fig. 1, Element 12}:

a room-number-input step of obtaining and inputting the room number of a guest when the guest visits the hotel facility {See Fig. 1, Element 14};

a lodging management system conjunction step of transmitting the room number of the guest to a lodging management system to obtain the information about the guest concerned {See Fig. 1, Element 11}; and

a service indication step of comparing a service management table for the management of the attributes of the services of the hotel facilities and for the management of the availabilities of the hotel facilities, with the guest's own attributes in the information about the guest which has been obtained from the lodging management system, and of indicating a service suitable for the guest's attributes {See Fig. 1, Element 17}.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

I. U.S. Patent:

- 1) U.S. Patent No. 6,195,420 (TOGNAZZINI) is cited to teach a hotel check-out system,
- 2) U.S. Patent No. 6,808,112 (JACOBI ET AL.) is cited to teach an automated self service hotel/motel front desk attendant system,
- 3) U.S. Patent No. 5,565,908 (AHMAD) is cited to teach a bi-directional system for providing information, management, and entertainment, and

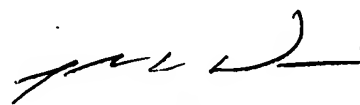
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cang (James) G. Thai whose telephone number is (571) 272-6499. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CGT
6/10/2005



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